explosives, action is taken by the Department of Explosives to suspend/cancel the licence. In addition to this, inspections of licensed premises are carried out by the officers of Department of Explosives regularly.

The Chief Controller of Explosives has issued instructions to all the Circle Offices to strictly monitor the explosives transaction. Further, under Rule 179 of the Explosives Rules, 1983, in addition to Chief Controller of Explosives, District Magistrate, Executive Magistrate subordinate to the District Magistrate, Commissioner of Police and Police Officer of the rank not below that of Sub-inspector, Chief Inspector of Mines and Officer subordinate to him are also empowered for search and seizure of explosives for violation of Explosives Rules.

**Production of rubber**

3664. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and consumption of rubber in India, State-wise;

(b) the total volume of export and import of rubber; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government for plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) State-wise production of Natural Rubber in India during 2000-2001 is given below:-

in tonnes

| State | Production |
|---|---|
| Kerala | 579866 |
| TamilNadu | 21611 |
| North Eastern States | 14476 |
| Other States | 14452 |
| Total: | 630405 |

State-wise consumption of Natural Rubber during 2000-2001 is as under:—

(in tonnes)

| State/Union Territory | Consumption |
|---|---|
| Kerala | 88221 |
| Punjab | 82843 |
| Maharashtra | 68344 |
| U.P. | 55684 |
| West Bengal | 43258 |
| Haryana | 38638 |
| Rajasthan | 35867 |
| Gujarat | 35107 |
| Tamil Nadu | 32588 |
| Karnataka | 31233 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 27732 |
| Orissa | 24072 |
| Goa and Daman | 23552 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 19906 |
| Delhi | 18360 |
| Pondicherry | 2531 |
| Bihar | 1304 |
| Others | 2235 |
| Total: | 631475 |

(b) During 2000-2001, 13.356 tonnes of Natural Rubber was exported and 8970 tonnes imported.

(c) Yes, Sir. For plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas, Govt. of India through Rubber Board is implementing a Block Plantation Scheme in collaboration with the concerned State Governments.

**Focus — Africa Programme**

3665. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced 'Focus—Africa Programme';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected growth in India's trade with Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Government has announced "Focus—Africa Programme" on 31st March, 2002 along with EXIM Policy for the years 2002—2007. During the year 2000-2001 India's exports to Sub-Saharan African Region was 1809 million US $. The expected compound growth of exports is at the rate of 20% per annum. It plans to double the exports in the next 4-5 years. The salient features of the programme are as under:

(i) The main objectives of the programme will be to increase interactions between the two regions by identifying the areas of bilateral trade and investment.